

AN  
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

*Simple Intermittent Fever*

SUBMITTED TO THE

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# Simple Intermittent Fever.

A paroxysm of simple intermittent fever naturally divides itself into three different stages; severally called from these phenomena, the cold, hot, and sweating stages.

The patient who is on the brink of a paroxysm of fever frequently feels a coldness of the extremities, begins to sigh, and yawn, and stretch himself, feels chilly sensations in the back, experiences a sensation of debility and distress about the epigastrium, becomes

weak languid listless, and unable to make any bodily or mental exertions. The blood dissects his superficial capillaries, he grows pale, his features shrink and his skin is rendered dry and rough, drawn up into little prominences, such as may at any time be produced by exposure to external cold. Some experience nausea it may be to vomiting, the patient sometimes continues getting colder until he shakes, the shaking may increase until the bed is moved by it, accompanied by chattering of the teeth,

His hair bristled slightly from a constricted state of the scalp while the face, lips, and nails are blue, respirations grows quick, the pulse frequent but feeble, the patient complains of pain in the head, back, and loins, all of the secretions are usually diminished, he may urinate often though generally voiding but little, the fluid is pale and aqueous, his bowels are confined, tongue dry and white.

After this state of general distress has lasted for a certain time, it

yields to another, quite an  
opposite kind. The cold and  
shivering abate, flushes of  
heat succeed which begins  
about the face and neck.

By degrees the coldness  
ceases entirely, the skin  
recovers its natural color  
going to increasing heat.

The face becomes red and  
turgid, and the general  
surface hot pungent and  
dry, the temples throb, a  
new kind of headache is  
induced, while the pulse become  
strong as well as rapid,  
the urine is still scanty,  
but more highly colored;  
the patient is exceedingly

uncomfortable, and restless.

At length another change comes over him; the skin now recovers its natural softness. a moisture appears on the forehead and neck; at length a copious sweat breaks forth from all portions of the body, to the great relief of the patient; the thirst ceases, the urine plentiful, and turbid; the pulse regains its natural force and frequency, the pains depart, and after awhile the sweating ceases, and the patient is well to all appearances.

There are various types of

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intermittent fever of which I shall speak of the three most common types, which are the quotidian, tertian, and quartan.

When the paroxysm occurs at the same hour, every day the patient is said to have quotidian fever.

When it comes on at the same hour every other day he is said to labour under tertian fever.

In the same way when the paroxysm absents itself for two whole days, and then recurs the disease is called a quartan fever. In the quotidian variety the paroxysm

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most frequently occurs in the morning, and passes through its different stages in from three to six hours. In the tertian variety it most commonly occurs about noon, and passes through its various stages in four or eight hours.

The paroxysm may occur every day one day in the morning and the next day in the evening which would make it strictly a double tertian. When the paroxysms occur in this manner it is generally more severe on one day than it is the next. When there are two days intervening between the



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paroxysm of fever it most commonly occurs in the afternoon. and takes the usual course of the fever passing through its different stages in six or eight hours, and abating and the patient is well again for two days  
Treatment.

During the paroxysm there is not much treatment, necessary in the common types of intermittents, I have known various remedies that have been applied but without much advantage being derived from them. A table spoonfull of the common black pepper, administered at the time

When the first symptom of the paroxysm were felt, has been used with some good effect it generally seems to shorten the cold, and hot stages, and by that means the sweating stage comes on sooner. In some instances the paroxysm has been prevented by taking three or four doses of the pepper a table-spoonfull for the dose to be taken just before the regular hour for its recurrence.

The pepper may produce sweating, and by keeping the patient close in a close room the paroxysm might be prevented.

External warmth is ~~very~~ beneficial in the cold stage, it being what nature would suggest to the common mind, the warmth may be applied in various ways, by wrapping hot rocks or bricks in cloth and applying them to the extremities, the feet knees, back, and hands, are the most usual modes,

During the hot stage there is not much treatment necessary when the fever is very high, I have known sweet-spirits of Nitre administered twenty or thirty drops with good effect, it would induce sweating and increase the secretions

The time for the principal treatment of this disease is during the intermission of the attacks, beginning at night after the paroxysm, by giving a purgative of Calomel ten grains or about twelve grains of Blue Mass. In the morning following the use of the purgative we should commence with Quinine in five or six grain doses every two hours, until we have administered fifteen or eighteen grains or until we have produced the specific effect of the remedy, which is the peculiar rolling noise about the head

I have known the bark of the willow root used with very good effect, by taking the root and scraping off the external bark so as to get the internal take this and put it in a vessel, pour to it boiling water, and let it stand until it has extracted the active properties of the bark, set it by the fire, and drink of it constantly so as to keep in a gentle sweat until after the time for the recurrence of the fever.

The Prophylactic Treatment that we should use in this disease, should be eighteen grains of Quinine given every

ninth day, or give one  
 dose of six grains on the  
 night of the eighth day, and  
 the remainder to be given  
 on the morning of the ninth  
 This treatment should be kept  
 up for five consecutive periods.

